

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK

Policy Council Minutes February 26, 2003

Members/Representatives Present:

- Bruce Davis, 3rd District Board of Supervisors Representative
- Paula Roby, Department of Behavioral Health
- Andy Gruchy, Department of Behavioral Health
- MaryLynn Clark, Inland Regional Center
- Narciso Cardona,
- Bonnie O'Connor, Children's Fund
- Julian Weaver, County Superintendent of School
- Eric Frykman, Department of Public Health
- Susan Melanson, Children's Network
- Bruce Smith, Department of Public Health
- Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer
- Honorable Rex Victor, Juvenile Court
- Carol Anselmi, HSS Administration
- Cathy Cimbalo, Director of Children's Services
- Claudia Spencer, Department of Public Health
- Dennis Zimmerman, Grand Jury
- Jane Lawrence, Public Defender Admin.
- Gerald Farber, Public Defender Office
- Ray Wingerd, Probation
- Bonnie Konowitch, Children's Network
- Mandi Batal, SB County LITE Library
- Joyce Lewis, Department of Behavioral Health
- Don Larkin, First 5 San Bernardino
- Edward Rowe, Children's Network
- Mary Jaquish, Children's Network
- Patricia Nickols, Community Services Department
- Dave Larsen, County ECD
- Tammy Williams, Children's Network

The meeting of the Children's Network Policy Council was called to order at 12:10 p.m. and convened by Carol Anselmi and Honorable Rex Victor in the Citrus Room, fifth floor, County Government Center.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Carol Anselmi welcomed those present and self-introductions were made.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda as read.

3.0 Approval of January Minutes

The January 22, 2003 minutes were approved as submitted.

4.0 Information Items

4.1 Children's Fund Report

Bonnie O'Connor reported they are very busy getting ready for the Annual Duck Race on April 26th at the Guasti Regional Park. Bonnie mentioned they would be calling the departments for volunteers and to sell ducks. Presently, the Department of Children's Services (DCS) and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) are competing on the number of duck sales. Bonnie referred everyone to information in their packets, specifically the Survey to assist them in their 2003/2004 Strategic Planning, which is due **March 15, 2003**. The purpose of the survey is to see the 3 most important items needed for children at-risk.

4.2 CBO Partnership Program

Mary referred everyone to the 3 handouts in your packets, which give the detailed information. The CBO (Community Based Operations) Partnership Program was initiated by the Board of Supervisors in 1999. They have assisted 350 organizations by offering technical assistance; partnering, creating better planning projects to assist the CBOs in becoming self-sufficient. They have facilitated 3 Children's Network Collaboratives over the last 2 years with 30 to 60 agencies attending each monthly meeting to learn about funding, grant information, partnership, and local resources. Mary conducted a survey with the collaboratives to find out what ways we could better serve them. The results of the survey indicated that: a funders conference with various departments hosting it and explaining their RFPs, hiring, program development, reporting forms, access to administrative support, etc would be helpful. Assistance is offered to the CBOs to write better proposals, and they are offered through the Internet weekly funding opportunities. Kent mentioned that the Child Abuse contractors really appreciate the regular contact they can access through quarterly meetings with DCS and the Network. Mary reported they just completed a surplus property distribution for the faith-based, and CBOs on February 20th. There are 150 approved agencies on the list.

There was not as good a turnout as expected especially from the west end. One agency reported to Mary they saved \$7,000 a year by not having to buy surplus property.

Mary and Bonnie Konowitch just recently attended a faith-based conference in San Diego initiated by the federal government for faith-based agencies to learn more about accessing federal funding and community initiatives. More details about the White House Faith-Based and Community Initiatives are found in your packet. The Federal Government is trying to level the playing field for the faith-based and the CBOs when they are competing for funds with other government agencies. Mary and Bonnie both have a notebook with lots of material and would welcome to do an expanded presentation to your department if requested.

4.3 DBH Strategic Plan

Kent thanked everyone from Policy Council who participated in the first focus group. He indicated that were a number of comments made about the need for better service integration. Kent indicated that he has always believed that the best way to achieve this is through the MDT process. He referred everyone to a draft handout in the packets as well as the focus group schedule of meetings.

Draft referral forms were presented for line workers to assess the need for a referral to an MDT. If a child needs additional resources and referrals the case will be referred to a local MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team)/Family Preservation Council. A suggestion made was to add Inland Regional Center to the form. All child and family serving agencies could utilize this assessment form. Kent asked everyone to review the draft form and give him comments and he will bring the revised form back to the next meeting.

Kent mentioned that the Human Services System, Program Development Unit, is working on some good products and system innovations from the information gathered at the first focus group. Kent reported that the MDT process has been in place since 1988 with a standing order from the Juvenile Court. The Family Preservation Councils meet countywide and can be expanded depending on the number of cases to be discussed. The goal is to have 500 case discussions a year. There was some further discussion about developing a process for Medi-Cal or EPSDT billing on the cases discussed.

4.4 Conference Attendance

Susan Melanson reported: She sent out a brief request to Policy Council members to assess the anticipated attendance for the 2003 Children's Network Annual Conference in September. Based on the responses, the plan is to move forward with the conference planning. The conference will be held on September 18th at the Ontario Convention Center. This year the conference will be expanded and blended to meet other conference needs. The goal is to keep the conference registration at \$99 per person, so it is more affordable.

5.0 Discussion/Action Items

5.1 Child Abuse Prevention Month Resolution Approval requested to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that April 2003 be declared Child Abuse Prevention Month in San Bernardino County.

Susan Melanson referred everyone to the draft resolution in the meeting packets. Susan asked the group to review for any changes or additions needed. . A motion was made to accept the resolution as presented and forward it to the Board of Supervisors for adoption at their March 18th meeting. The nomination committee met recently to discuss the selection of the honorees for the Annual Blue Ribbon Awards Breakfast.

Children's Network's Annual Shine the Light On Child Abuse Awards **Breakfast** is on **March 26th at 7:30 a.m. at the Double Tree in Ontario.** Susan asked the group to sell tickets or if possible to make donations in support of the breakfast. There will be a powerful new video shown this year. All the honorees have been invited to attend the breakfast.

5.2 Policy Council Priority: Substance Abusing Pregnant/Parenting Women Dr. Bruce Smith, Co-Chairperson of the Perinatal Coalition, will provide an update on the Perinatal Plan and promising practices

Dr. Smith referred everyone to the Action Plan and Executive Summary in their packet, which gave more details. He is happy to find that Perinatal Substance Abuse is at the top of the 2003 Children's Network priorities to tackle. Dr. Smith with a team from San Bernardino County attended a meeting in December in Sacramento to discuss Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health practices. Dr. Smith felt some of the most informative data from the meeting was about; integration of multiple resources, increased access, residential programs that significant others and children older than 5 could come, and the ability to live in the residential treatment house up to 2 years.

Another important program was the quality job training programs for women to sustain themselves with the woman being assigned to a jobs coordinator to handle any job related issues. Dr. Smith mentioned that the model presented from Dr. Ira Chasnoff of Chicago developed best practices and implementation. He has brought expertise to share in various states. It was suggested that a small team from this county should go and meet with Dr. Ira Chasnoff in Chicago to see what it would take to implement this program in San Bernardino County. Dr. Smith mentioned that funding streams need to be identified, get private physicians to refer pregnant women needing treatment to treatment programs, etc. Dr. Smith stated he would bring back a report on their action plan with modifications for best practices next month. There were some full reports placed on the tables, if additional copies are needed, please contact Dr. Smith.

6.0 Other

Honorable Rex Victor talked about the Annual Adoption event at the Ontario Convention Center on February 21st. He talked about what a wonderfully organized event it was. There were 5 judges who participated. Seventy-five families adopted 137 children. Children's Fund distributed teddy bears to all the children who were adopted. David Wert did a wonderful job getting fabulous press coverage. It was mentioned that the Discovery Channel would be putting a story on TV as well. It turned out to be a very fun day with over 700 in attendance.

Claudia Spencer announced there was a very successful Drowning Prevention Conference yesterday with over 150 in attendance. The plans are to make it an annual event. The conference was offered early in the year to get information to the public and first responders ready for the high peak months of drowning June, July, and August. The keynote speaker was from Arizona and presented a wonderful model on drowning prevention.

Susan Melanson reported she worked at the registration table and spoke about an empowering panel discussion from a fireman who responded to a drowning in Loma Linda that affected him deeply. This fireman took his concerns to the city council and had an aerial picture taken of the city, which showed all of the pools. Every street that had a pool was canvassed and the owners spoken to about pool safety. For one year in Loma Linda, there were no drownings reported. Susan challenged all the policy council members to go to their local city council and propose some type of activity like this for drowning prevention. All the cities in the county have been invited to join us in proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention month. There will also be a proclamation for Safe Kids Summer campaign.

Children's Network Policy Council
February 26, 2003

Patricia Nickols of Community Services Department invited everyone to a fundraiser on April 19th at Eisenhower High School. The fundraiser is for the candle lighters organization. Patricia had brochures and posters available. The goal is to raise the awareness of childhood cancer. Patricia lost her son in 1999 to cancer and would appreciate any support you can offer for this fundraiser.

7.0 Public Comment

Meeting adjourned.

8.0 Next Meeting will be March 26, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Williams
Children's Network Policy Council Recording Secretary